



Commonwealth of Kentucky Labor Cabinet

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Treviicos-Soletanche Joint Venture Earns Governor's Safety and Health Award

Joint venture contractor goes more than 1.3 million hours without a lost-time incident at Wolf Creek Dam

JAMESTOWN, Ky. (Jan. 22, 2014) – The barrier wall construction and remediation of Wolf Creek Dam in southern Kentucky was a massive undertaking, with towering cranes, more than two dozen pieces of heavy machinery, and scores of vehicles and workers in constant motion, all inside a workspace that was 80 feet wide and 4,000 feet long. Despite the challenges, Treviicos-Soletanche Joint Venture has gone nearly three years without a lost time-incident.

Deputy Secretary Rocky Comito of the Kentucky Labor Cabinet today honored Treviicos-Soletanche Joint Venture with the Governor's Safety and Health Award. The honor recognizes the company's more than 1.3 million work hours without a lost-time incident while working on the Wolf Creek Dam project as a contractor for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Kentucky Labor Secretary Larry L. Roberts applauded the corporation's achievement and dedication to its employees.

"Today's honor represents an outstanding commitment to safety," said Secretary Roberts. "Considering the scope of this project and the potentially hazardous nature of construction work, to go nearly three years without an incident demonstrates how Treviicos-Soletanche Joint Venture has placed a pre-eminent emphasis on safety."

In 2005, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers placed Wolf Creek Dam, which was built right after World War II, under a “high risk for failure” designation. The dam was plagued by leaks and repaired many times before undergoing a \$594 million major rehabilitation. The main contract was awarded in 2008 to Treviicos-Soletanche Joint Venture for the construction of a 980,000-square-foot concrete barrier, which was completed in March 2013, nine months ahead of schedule.

“Safety is a fundamental and integral part of our work,” said Treviicos-Soletanche Joint Venture Project Manager Fabio Santillan. “A job of this complexity cannot be conceived without following high, stringent safety standards and without the firm commitment and collaboration of all the team members. Treviicos-Soletanche J.V. recognizes and thanks the support and partnership received from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nashville District, in achieving this important milestone.”

“Reaching more than a million work hours on the job without a lost-time accident is a significant achievement,” said Lt. Col. John L. Hudson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nashville District commander. “The crews at Wolf Creek Dam worked day and night and kept safe despite the vehicles, equipment and people moving about constantly on the congested work platform.”

Teamwork on an international level

Treviicos-Soletanche is a corporation formed as a joint venture between TREVI Group, based in Italy, and Soletanche Bachy, based in France.

Treviicos is the U.S. subsidiary of Italy-based TREVI, which was established in 1957 and today has more than 40 branches in more than 80 countries. Treviicos is a full-service ground engineering company, and is a primary contractor in the construction of the foundations of the new World Trade Center towers being built at Ground Zero in New York.

Soletanche is headquartered in France, and specializes in geotechnical and civil engineering. With 8,000 employees in more than 40 countries, Soletanche has completed more than 60,000 projects, including tunnels in major cities across the world, foundations for the highest towers in Asia, Europe and the Middle East, and restoration of historical monuments such as the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, France.

Construction of the barrier wall was an international endeavor, with people from 11 countries involved. However, the majority of the workers, about 200 of 251 at peak production, were from Kentucky.

Largest of its kind in the history of the world

Treviicos-Soletanche JV officials and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers agree that the concrete barrier wall at Wolf Creek Dam is the largest of its kind ever in the history of the world. It was built using eight different techniques, including high mobility grouting,

low mobility grouting, clamshell excavation, hydromill excavation, directional drilled pilot holes, auger drilling, reverse circulation drilling and verification coring drilling.

The barrier wall used more than a billion pounds of concrete. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers estimates the amount of concrete used in the wall could build a sidewalk 5 feet wide and 4 inches thick from Russell Springs to Washington, D.C.

In January 2007, the water level in Lake Cumberland was lowered 40 feet to ease pressure on the dam. With the new barrier wall, the level was raised 20 feet last summer, and is expected to be back to historical operational levels at 723 feet above sea level this summer.

About the Governor's Safety and Health Award

The Kentucky Labor Cabinet presents the Governor's Safety and Health Award in recognition of outstanding safety and health performance. An establishment may qualify for the award if its employees together achieve a required number of hours worked without experiencing a lost-time injury or illness. The required number of hours is dependent upon the number of employees. In the case of Treviicos-Soletanche Joint Venture, which had at the peak of production 251 employees, the requirement was 500,000 hours.

Every establishment within the geographical boundaries of Kentucky is eligible, even if the establishment won the award the previous year. Eligibility is limited to one award during a 12-month period of time.

The award is a certificate mounted on a wooden plaque. The certificate contains the signatures of Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear, Secretary Roberts and Department of Workplace Standards Commissioner Anthony Russell.

For more on the Governor's Safety and Health Award, and for a list of past winners, click [here](#).

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